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BOOKS" OF THE

BRITISH FIRE PREVENTION COMMITTEE.—No. 158.

the Executive.

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Fire Precautions and The Coronation Celebrations

Being a Report on the
Special Fire Preventive Work

of the
British Fire Prevention Committee

For June 22nd and 23rd, 1911

By

EDWIN O. SACHS, F.R.S.Ed., etc.

Architect:

Chairman, British Fire Prevention Committee:

Vice-President, National Fire Brigades' Union:

Vice-President, International Fire Service Council.

with

Three Appendices.

- I. The Thanks of the Committee.
- II. Various other Fire Preventive Measures.
- III. The Special Arrangements of the London Fire Brigade for attending Fires.

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LONDON, 1911.

PUBLISHED AT THE OFFICES OF
THE BRITISH FIRE PREVENTION COMMITTEE.
(Founded 1897—Incorporated 1899).
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"RED BOOKS" of the

BRITISH FIRE PREVENTION COMMITTEE. No. 158.

Edited by the Executive.

Fire Precautions
and
The Coronation Celebrations
Being a Report on the
Special Fire Preventive Work
of the
British Fire Prevention Committee
For June 22nd and 23rd, 1911

By
EDWIN O. SACHS, F.R.S.Ed., F.S.S., A.Inst.M.E.

*Architect ;
Chairman, British Fire Prevention Committee ;
Vice-President, National Fire Brigades' Union ;
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Two Shillings and Sixpence



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OBJECTS OF THE COMMITTEE.

The main objects of the Committee are:

To direct attention to the urgent need for increased protection of life and property from fire by the adoption of preventive measures.

To use its influence in every direction towards minimizing the possibilities and dangers of fire.

To bring together those scientifically interested in the subject of Fire Prevention.

To arrange periodical meetings for the discussion of practical questions bearing on the same.

To establish a reading-room, library and collections for purposes of research, and for supplying recent and authentic information on the subject of Fire Prevention.

To publish from time to time papers specially prepared for the Committee, together with records, extracts, and translations.

GENERAL PERIODICALS

To undertake such independent investigations and tests of materials, methods and appliances as may be considered advisable.

The Committee's Reports on Tests with Materials, Methods of Construction, or Appliances are intended solely to state bare facts and occurrences, with tables, diagrams, or illustrations, and they are on no account to be read as expressions of opinion, criticisms, or comparisons.

The Committee is not responsible for the views of individual authors as expressed in Papers or Notes, but only for such observations as are formally issued on behalf of the Executive.

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Chairman of the Executive.

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Billiter Square Buildings, E.C.

Testing Station:

NORTH BANK LODGE, HANOVER GATE, REGENT'S PARK, N.W.

Offices:

8 WATERLOO PLACE, PALL MALL, LONDON, S.W.
CHARLES ADAMI, Assistant Secretary.

CORONATION CELEBRATIONS

FIRE PRECAUTIONS ON JUNE 22 & 23.

A. MATCHES, SMOKING & WEARING APPAREL

1. *The lighting of matches and smoking should be avoided by persons standing or moving in a crowd, and should be prohibited by owners of stands, balconies, etc.*
2. *The wearing of garments of muslin, voile and flannelette should be avoided, and celluloid articles should on no account be worn.*

B. DECORATIONS, STANDS, BALCONIES, Etc.

1. *Highly inflammable decorative materials such as paper roses, muslin, cotton-wool borders, unless properly treated, should not be used, and celluloid decorations should also be avoided.*
2. *Exits and stairs should be kept clear for all stands, balconies, rooms, etc., used as points of vantage, and buckets of water in good number, thick cloths, portable steps and knives for cutting down draperies should be at hand.*

C. ILLUMINATIONS, FIREWORKS, Etc.

1. *Illumination devices must be fixed firmly with metal fastenings, i.e., not with string or cord, and on no account placed on window ledges, balcony rails or the like overlooking public thoroughfares without being properly secured.*
2. *Curtains, hangings, etc., should be removed from around windows where open lights are to be used and away from temporary wiring, fuse boxes, etc.*
3. *Buckets of water should be provided, also boxes of dry sand where electrical illuminations are employed.*
4. *Fireworks, especially rockets, should on no account be let off from property adjacent to thoroughfares, and where used should be handled by adults of some experience.*

For THE BRITISH FIRE PREVENTION COMMITTEE,

EDWIN O. SACHS, *Chairman.*

ELLIS MARSLAND, *Gen. Hon. Sec.*

8 Waterloo Place,
London, S.W.
June, 1911.

Fig. c.—“HINTS” (PRINTED IN RED, FOLIO SIZE).

Issued to Occupiers, etc., Institutions, Clubs, Hotels, etc., and to the public Press.

NOTE.

This "Red Book" contains a report of the work done by the British Fire Prevention Committee in connection with the great Coronation celebrations in the Metropolis, when a systematic effort was made by its Executive to reduce the risks of fire by cautioning the general public as to the fire dangers to be avoided, and, further, by communicating with many occupiers of premises on the processional routes with a view of indicating to them the manner in which certain fire risks due to their decorations, illuminations or stands could be reduced.

The lines on which the work was organized, its extent and the very satisfactory result, are described in the report, which speaks for itself, but it would not be out of place to mention that the self-imposed duty of dealing with this matter necessitated an extraordinary amount of personal attention being devoted to it by the members of the General Purposes Subcommittee of the Executive who carried out the scheme.

The pleasantest feature of the work was the fact that it was exceedingly well received by and eminently beneficent to those participating in the celebrations. But it is also probable that what has been done will have some lasting effect, as large sections of the public have made a mental note of the simple safeguards by which loss of life or injury from fire can be so easily avoided, and are likely to apply the Committee's "Cautions" in a general way in everyday life, as also more especially on future festive occasions.]

The thanks of the Committee are particularly due to the newspaper Press for the generous way in which they have assisted the Committee in disseminating its "Cautions" and "Hints," but thanks are also largely due to a number of public officials, public institutions, companies, firms and individuals, who helped in various ways and to whom reference is made in the report as also in Appendix I. It should be added that the occupiers of premises dealt with and the public generally, with but few exceptions, entered fully into the spirit of the Committee's efforts and expressed their appreciation in manifold ways.

This report is issued not only as a record of what has been done, but as a guide for future similar occasions; and seeing that the Report is intended as a guide, there has been added to it in the form of Appendix II some particulars as to special instructions or notices issued by the police, public authorities and others regarding electrical illuminations, stands, etc., which may also be useful for reference purposes.

The excellent arrangements of the London Fire Brigade to promptly attend outbreaks of fire during the celebrations are also noted in Appendix III, so that they may serve as a model both at home and abroad.

The work of the Committee in connection with the Coronation celebrations was a new departure in its efforts to prevent fire, and it is to be hoped that this new line of activity will eventually lead to a greater popularization of the subject of fire precautions among the community at large.

EDWIN O. SACHS.

8 *Waterloo Place,*
London, S.W.
July, 1911.



FIRE PRECAUTIONS
AND
The Coronation Celebrations
BEING A REPORT ON THE
SPECIAL FIRE PREVENTIVE WORK
OF THE
British Fire Prevention Committee
For June 22nd and 23rd, 1911

The attention of the British Fire Prevention Committee having been called to the serious character of some of the fire dangers to be anticipated in connection with the great Coronation celebrations in the metropolis, the Executive decided that it would be advisable to take steps to reduce the risk as far as this was possible, by issuing warnings to the public generally and devising special preventive measures.

NATURE OF THE FIRE RISKS.

The growing habit of cigarette smoking during the past decade, combined with an unfortunate increasing carelessness in the use of matches, was considered the primary danger that would have to be contended against, and supplementary thereto was the danger of women and children wearing garments of a highly inflammable character, such as voile, muslin and flannelette, or using ornaments—more especially combs—of celluloid, a material which flames so rapidly if fired by a spark.

As far as the many stands and decorative schemes were concerned, danger was anticipated from the use of unsuitable flimsy materials liable to catch fire readily where smoking was allowed or where the arrangement of the temporary illuminants was of an unsuitable character.

Regarding stands, balconies and windows used as points of vantage in particular, it was deemed that the extent and effect of an outbreak could be minimized both by having exits kept clear and by having simple first-aid extinguishing appliances placed at hand for instant use.

The manner of fixing simple illumination devices and the possible display of fireworks near public thoroughfares were also considered to be subjects demanding attention.

ACTION OF THE COMMITTEE.

Prior to undertaking to organize the work necessary to meet these risks, the Executive had fully realised that whilst there were ample powers vested in the local authorities to deal with the structural features of the stands and perhaps a certain indirect possibility of control in respect to special hazards, such as the installation of electrical illuminations, there did not appear to be existent either the necessary powers, any inferred duty, or even precedent, by which any great public authority could deal with what might be termed the more general safeguards that largely affect the individual member of the public, and more particularly those who were likely to comprise "the crowd." The general fire dangers of the Coronation afforded one of those instances where "everybody's business seemed to be nobody's business," and it became evident that little would be done to remedy this state of affairs unless the Committee stepped into the breach. It should, however, perhaps be mentioned here that the Executive was somewhat diffident as to taking action, as they felt that they might unwittingly be encroaching upon the sphere of some public department, which, even if not equipped with the necessary powers, might be about to take up the matter energetically and to which the public might prefer to look for guidance rather than to the British Fire Prevention Committee. Thus prior to putting its scheme into operation the Executive made a point of notifying the Secretary of State for Home Affairs of its intention, as also of notifying the Chief Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, the Commissioner of the City Police, and the Chief Officer of the London Fire Brigade. This point is specially referred to with a view of indicating that the Executive did not take action without first informing themselves that no other effort was being made to systematically combat on a comprehensive scale the general fire dangers with which they were particularly concerned.

ORGANIZATION OF THE FIRE PREVENTIVE WORK.

The plan of operations followed by the Executive was settled by its General Purposes Sub-Committee in such a manner that it might be handled in four distinct sections, any one of which could be either altered or extended as the needs of the moment required without interfering with any other of the sections.

(1.) THE POSTERS ("CAUTIONS").

The first of these four sections of work comprised the posting up of a short "Caution" regarding carelessness in respect to smoking, matches and the use of highly inflammable wearing apparel, the exact terms and style of which will be found in *Fig. a.* This "Caution," in the form of a small "bill," was posted up at close intervals throughout the whole route of the processions, and

THE BRITISH FIRE PREVENTION COMMITTEE

(FOUNDED 1897—INCORPORATED 1899)

FREE ISSUE
FOR THE
PUBLIC USE

CAUTION!

SPECIAL
EMERGENCY
NOTICE

CORONATION CELEBRATIONS

- ¶ The lighting of matches and smoking should be avoided by persons standing or moving in a crowd or occupying seats to view the processions, and in any case matches used should be carefully extinguished.
- ¶ The wearing of garments of muslin, voile and flannelette should be avoided and celluloid articles should on no account be worn.

8 Waterloo Place, Pall Mall,
London, S. W., June, 1911.

Issued by

The British Fire Prevention Committee.
EDWIN O. SACHS, F. R. S. Ed., Chairman.
ELLIS MARSLAND, Gen. Hon. Secretary

Additional Copies of this Warning can be obtained upon written Application

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Fig. a.—“POSTER” (PRINTED IN RED).

Posted up extensively on the Processional Routes, on Hoardings, etc., at Railway Stations, etc., and issued to public Press.

having regard to the fact that the hoardings, etc., in connection with stands were constantly being changed, painted or draped during the days preceding the celebrations this posting was twice repeated on alternate days under the personal inspection of two members of the Executive. The "Caution" was largely affixed to general advertising hoardings, public notice boards, etc., throughout the metropolis and its suburbs. It was also posted up at a large number of public institutions, railway, tramway

THE BRITISH FIRE PREVENTION COMMITTEE.

(Founded 1897—Incorporated 1899.)

CAUTION!

FIRE PRECAUTIONS for the CORONATION CELEBRATIONS.

MATCHES, SMOKING and WEARING APPAREL.

Q The lighting of matches and smoking should be avoided by persons standing or moving in a crowd, and in any case, great care must be taken in extinguishing matches and cigarette ends.

Q The wearing of garments of muslin, voile, and flannelette should be avoided, and celluloid articles should on no account be worn.

WATERLOO PLACE, LONDON, S.W.
June, 1911

Issued by the Executive.

EDWIN O. SACHS, Chairman
ELLIS MARSLAND, Gen. Hon. Sec.

Fig. b.—"SLIP" (PRINTED IN RED) FOR INSERTION WITH CORRESPONDENCE.
Distributed by Members and Subscribers and by many who co-operated with the Committee.

and omnibus stations, hospitals and homes, clubs, hotels and boarding houses, exchanges, offices and shops, in fact, everywhere where people congregate and where the posters were likely to be best seen. The assistance of the Board of Trade in posting up the cautions at its Labour Bureaus calls for special mention.

(2.) THE ISSUE OF "SLIPS" ("CAUTIONS").

The second section of the work comprised the issue of a similar "Caution" in slip form (see *Fig. b*) for distribution by post, and this distribution was undertaken by a number of

members and subscribers of the Committee, as also by a number of semi-public bodies and industrial undertakings. Special mention should here be made of the co-operation of such well organised forces as the Salvation Army, the Boy Scouts and the Corps of Commissionaires.

(3.) *THE INSPECTIONS AND ISSUE OF "HINTS."*

The third section of the work was of a more detailed and exceedingly tedious character. It comprised the issue of a folio sheet of special "Hints" personally addressed with a signed covering letter to practically all the householders on the route of the Coronation procession, and dealing with the dangers of the decorative materials, safeguards as to stands and places of vantage, illuminations, etc., the details of which will be found in *Fig. c*. These were issued largely by hand under the supervision of the members of the General Purposes Sub-Committee to the occupiers of buildings or their representatives, and the manifold queries arising therefrom were dealt with case by case. Following upon the issue of these "Hints," i.e., during the week and the few days just preceding the celebrations, the route was carefully inspected by these members, and where anything of a particularly dangerous character was found, especially in respect to decorations and celluloid lamp covers, the occupiers were personally communicated with in such a manner that they could not well avoid fully realising the grave responsibility they were incurring if they allowed the dangerous materials to remain. Here it should be remarked, that with very few exceptions the Committee's suggestions were not only promptly but very willingly acted upon, and there appears to have only been one instance on the whole of the route where they were resented. In many instances the "Hints" were, as a matter of fact, posted up in the hall or staircase of the building, and here special mention should be made of the assistance rendered by many club secretaries by also posting the "Hints" on club notice boards.

(4.) *THE PRESS PUBLICITY.*

The fourth section of the work comprised what may be described as Press publicity, with a view of obtaining the widest possible dissemination of the Committee's views as to the necessary fire precautions. This was done by notifying the Press of what the Committee was doing, and what it advised, but here again the matter was, as a rule, not dealt with in the form of mere circulars, but by personal letters to each individual editor, and the extent of the work of this section may be gauged by indicating that it covered the whole of the daily and evening Press, the Press of the London suburbs, a large portion of the provincial Press, and practically the whole of the technical Press concerned. Here again, whenever the Committee's sug-

gestions were not accorded attention, the respective editors were often personally approached a second time with a further request to take up the matter. As mentioned elsewhere, the invaluable co-operation of the Press was, however, generally most willingly accorded.

VARIOUS.

Outside the work of the above four sections, a certain amount of supplementary work was done, as, for instance, notices were also posted at provincial hotels, some of the large provincial railway stations, landing stages, etc., and some of the clergy were approached to use their influence in the interest of the precautionary measures—in fact, wherever an opportunity presented itself that either individuals or corporations might be of service in making the necessary fire precautions, co-operation was invited, and it was almost invariably granted.

In a number of cases the Executive was able to influence authorities and others to issue similar notices, and this was specially the case with several provincial chief constables who had to deal with local celebrations. Frequently owners of stands undertook to print special notices regarding smoking.

ASSISTANCE RECEIVED.

It is obvious that with the limited funds at the Committee's disposal, and the fact that practically the whole of the work had to be done by the voluntary workers of its Executive, i.e. without the engagement of a special staff, it would have been impossible to bring the above system into successful operation had not the Executive been able to obtain the cordial assistance of a very large number of public officials, institutions, firms, and private individuals who, in their respective spheres, so courteously acted upon the requests or instructions issued from the Committee's Waterloo Place Office. At this point it should be publicly stated how highly the Executive of the British Fire Prevention Committee appreciates the help so liberally accorded. Lists of names of those who to the Committee's knowledge have specially co-operated in the work will be found at the end of this report, and although it would perhaps almost seem unwise to discriminate as to where the largest amount of assistance came from, yet it would be ungracious not to make special mention of some of those whose help was of exceptional importance. Thus, for instance, the bill-posting trade as a whole most liberally assisted in the work, one firm alone posting up 1,000 of the Committee's "Cautions," and the members of that trade as a whole are to be congratulated on the manner in which they entered into the spirit of the Committee's preventive scheme. Next special mention should be made of the Dean of St. Paul's and the rectors of a large number of churches in central London who had the "Cautions" posted at numerous church doors.

The Central London Railway, the Great Northern, Great Eastern, London and North-Western, and Metropolitan Railways did useful work in bill-posting at their many railway stations, as also the London County Council Tramway Department and the General Omnibus Company.

The Board of Trade, as indicated above, posted up the "bills" at its many Labour Bureaus, likewise Trinity House at its offices and the National Telephone Company at its exchanges; hospitals of the standing of the Charing Cross-, Royal Free-, University College-, and the London Temperance-Hospitals helped by posting up the "Cautions" in their out-patients' wards, nurses, and staff departments. The large hotels as a whole assisted, but likewise also the managers of the Rowton Houses, the Salvation Army Shelters, the Peabody Buildings, and Dr. Barnardo's Homes.

Only a few commercial houses were asked to help, and the majority of these did so, excepting only the caterers and the drapery trade who happen to sell smoking materials and highly inflammable fabrics respectively, and whose passive attitude is of course quite understandable. But even here there were laudable exceptions. It would perhaps be well to specially mention that among those caterers and drapers who took the broader view, thereby assisting the Committee, were Messrs. Spiers and Ponds, Ltd., Cabins, Ltd., William Whiteley, Ltd., Selfridge and Co. Ltd., Messrs. Bon Marché, Ltd., Arding and Hobbs, the Army and Navy Stores, the Civil Service Stores, and the Home and Colonial Stores. Of large commercial firms who co-operated cordially with the Committee in the postal distribution of "Slips," Messrs. Kodak should be specially noted. They distributed 5,000 slips largely among just that class of sightseer which the Committee had some difficulty in approaching, i.e., young people who were likely to be on stands having equipped themselves with photographic materials in connection with the celebrations. On the other hand the vendors of seats to view the processions, i.e., the "libraries," estate agents and tourist offices who were asked to enclose the "Slips" with their tickets seemed afraid to do so for fear of thereby describing the accommodation they were selling as dangerous, which was a somewhat narrow-minded view. But altogether—with but very few exceptions—the co-operation of the commercial firms in respect to both posters and "slips" was one of the most effective features of the Committee's work.

Turning to the work in connection with the householders on the route of the procession, it should, perhaps, be mentioned that all the letters from the Committee were either signed by the Chairman, Gen. Hon. Secretary or Honorary Treasurer and seem to have been well received, for in many cases the occupiers have made a point of expressing their thanks for the advice tendered by the Committee. In a number of instances the occupiers even went to the trouble of having copies made and distributed among their staffs, and besides

having copies posted on their staircases displayed them in the rooms used as points of vantage.

Finally the publicity work in the fourth section. It was certainly the most remarkable feature of the arrangements that the general Press, who, as a rule, have too great a pressure on their columns to be able to accord much space to what might be termed preventive or scientific side of fires, opened their columns widely and most generously to the Committee, who are thus eminently indebted to the many editors and sub-editors not only for affording space for reproduction of the "Hints" and "Cautions" issued, but in giving prominence to them and in frequent cases referring to them specially in their editorial columns. The assistance rendered by the Press of the country from the old established *Times* or *Morning Post*, and the widely read *Daily Mail* or *Daily Express* to some of the smallest of the provincial and suburban papers indeed seems not only to be a remarkable instance of how the Press can exert itself for the good of the public, but also how it appreciates voluntary work of a practical character as rendered by this Committee.

EXTENT OF THE WORK.

From the above and by perusal of the list of those who have assisted the Committee (see Appendix I) it will be observed that the "Cautions" and "Hints" were disseminated in a manner that could not but bear fruit, and to give some idea of the extent of the work it may be of interest to note that at least 14,000 "bills" were posted up in and near the metropolis and that at least 13,000 slips were issued and that over 4,000 letters were sent to occupiers on the route of the procession and others, whilst some 400 newspapers and journals may be said to have dealt with the subject—in some instances more than once—which in itself was equivalent to an enormous circulation.

RESULTS OF THE WORK.

As to the result of the work it will be best to simply let the London Fire Brigade reports and the police and ambulance returns speak for themselves. The total number of fires attended by the fire brigade on the routes of the Coronation procession and Royal Progress during daylight of the 22nd and 23rd of June was *one*, i.e., a small fire in Pall Mall on the 22nd, about 1.45 p.m. The total number of fires in the London county attended by the brigade on those two days and in any way attributable to the celebrations was eleven, for the most part due to illuminations. A few cases of small fires have been reported where draperies or decorations caught fire, but could be dealt with on the spot without notifying the brigade. There are a few records of slight burns owing to dresses catching fire, but no case of serious personal injury or death from fire among the vast crowds.

It was generally remarked that the greatest possible care seemed to be taken with matches, and that only a small minority of the men smoked during the hours of waiting, which indeed was a marked change from the carelessness with lights and the general smoking observable at previous great gatherings. To give figures, among a crowd averaging five deep between Marlborough House and Waterloo Place on the South side of Pall Mall only 17 were smoking at 12 o'clock of the 22nd, and 23 at 1.15 p.m., and smoking on the stands in that section seemed quite exceptional, not half a dozen cases being observed.

It is to be hoped that the "Cautions" and "Hints" issued for the Coronation will further be borne in mind by the public and will thus have some effect on the many other celebrations that will take place from time to time, not only in the metropolis, but throughout the country. Maybe the Committee's work will even generally beneficially influence the users of matches and make women more careful in using highly inflammable materials like flannelette and celluloid on their own persons and on the children under their care.

EDWIN O. SACHS.

APPENDIX I.

THE THANKS OF THE COMMITTEE FOR ASSISTANCE KINDLY ACCORDED.

The thanks of the Committee are due to the Press, its editors and sub-editors, for the generous and conspicuous manner in which the "Cautions" and "Hints" issued by the Executive received publicity to such an extent that, even at a moderate computation of the circulation of the newspapers and journals in which the matter is known to have found insertion,—there must have been at least an aggregate edition of FIVE MILLION notices, most of which were well placed. It would lead too far to publish the list of newspapers of the metropolis, its suburbs and of the provinces, or to give lists of the technical Press that have assisted, but to mention only the London morning Press, the matter was prominently published, among others, by the following journals, namely: the *Times*, *Morning Post*, *Standard*, *Morning Advertiser*, *Financial Times*, *Daily Mail*, *Daily Express*, *Daily Chronicle*, *Daily News*, *Daily Graphic*, *Daily Mirror*, etc., etc. Some journals kindly repeated the notice on successive days.

The thanks of the Committee are also due to the many householders, occupiers of business premises, offices or rooms on the routes of the Coronation processions, who almost invariably met the General Purposes Sub-Committee of the Executive with the greatest possible courtesy, and acted promptly upon their suggestions. In several instances important decorative schemes were altered at the last moment, and such action calls for special appreciation.

The thanks of the Committee are further due to the large number of public officials, church officers, public institutions, societies, political and social clubs, workmen's and boys' clubs, public companies, firms and individuals who, upon being communicated with, posted up the "Hints" or "Cautions" or circulated them among their staffs. Of these, further, a number very kindly went out of their way to specially co-operate with the Committee and assisted either by putting up a number of the posters, or distributing a number of the "slips."

The following is a list of the names of those who have put up notices to an extent of anywhere between a dozen and a thousand, or distributed—each in their respective spheres—slips numbering anywhere between fifty and five thousand:

I. Government Departments, Public Authorities, etc.

Board of Trade (Labour
Exchanges).

Nova Scotia Government
(London Office).

Ontario Government (London
Office).

Trinity House.

II. Institutions, Societies and Homes.

The Salvation Army.
 Boy Scouts Headquarters.
 The Corps of Commissionaires.
 Baltic Mercantile and Shipping Exchange.
 Dr Barnardo's Homes.
 Boys' Home and Club.
 Peabody Buildings.
 Rowton Houses.
 Wool Exchange.

III. Hospitals.

Charing Cross Hospital
 London Temperance Hospital.
 Royal Free Hospital.
 The Middlesex Hospital.
 University College Hospital.

IV. Railway Companies and similar public services.

Central London Railway.
 Gt. Eastern Railway.
 Gt. Northern Railway.
 London and North Western Railway.
 Metropolitan Railway.
 General Omnibus Company.
 London County Council Tramways Department.
 National Telephone Company.

V. Hotels, etc.

Charing Cross Hotel.
 Claridge's Hotel.
 Curzon Hotel.
 Hotel Cecil.
 Hotel Great Central.
 Hotel Metropole.
 Liverpool Street Hotel.
 Ritz Hotel.
 Royal Palace Hotel.
 Savoy Hotel.
 St. George's House Restaurant.
 Waldorf Hotel.
 Whitehall Residential Hotels.

VI. Advertising Agents and Bill Posters.

Avriall and Sons.
 Bruton and Co.
 Messrs. Collinsons'

W. England and Co.

W. H. Fowler.
 Northern Bill Posting Co.
 Paddington Advertising Co.
 G. V. Reynolds and Sons.
 Taylor's Limited.
 Willing's Bill Posting Dept., Ltd.

VII. Commercial Houses, Stores, Shops, etc.

Achille Serre, Ltd.
 Arding and Hobbs.
 Army and Navy Co-operative Society, Ltd.
 Aylesbury Dairy Co., Ltd.
 Bon Marché, Ltd.
 British Thomson-Houston Co., Ltd.
 Cabins (1901) Ltd.
 Cerebos, Ltd.
 Clarke, Nickolls and Coombs, Ltd.
 Daimler Company, Ltd.
 Eastman and Son.
 Eustace Miles Proteid Foods, Ltd.
 Fullers, Ltd.
 Hope Bros., Ltd.
 Kodak, Ltd.
 J. Levy.
 Mappin and Webb (1908) Ltd.
 Maynards, Ltd.
 Pilkington Bros., Ltd.
 Sandow's Curative Institute.
 Selfridge and Co., Ltd.
 Spiers and Pond, Ltd.
 The Civil Service Co-operative Society, Ltd.
 The Home and Colonial Stores, Ltd.
 The Yale and Towne Co.
 Welford & Sons, Ltd.
 William Whiteley, Ltd.

Various.

Dean of St. Paul's Cathedral.
 G. A. Lansdown, F.R.I.B.A.
 W. J. Hardcastle, Dist. Surv.
 Lloyds Bank, Ltd.
 London and South Western Bank, Ltd.
 Phœnix Assurance Company.

On behalf of the General Purposes Sub-Committee:

EDWIN O. SACHS, *Chairman.*
 ELLIS MARSLAND, *Gen. Hon. Sec.*
 HORACE S. FOLKER, *Hon. Treasurer.*

July 1, 1911.

APPENDIX II.

VARIOUS OTHER PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES.

As this Red Book is not only intended to serve as a record of the Committee's work in connection with the Coronation celebrations, but also as a guide as to what should be done in connection with future events of a similar description, this Appendix is added with a view of giving some idea of the direction in which certain public authorities dealt with some of the special fire risks as distinct from general fire dangers as dealt with by the Committee.

"A METROPOLITAN POLICE WARNING."

In the first place, the Chief Commissioner of Police made some reference to the danger of fire in his general notices and a few posters were also to be seen in the terms approximately given below regarding care with matches, etc. The advice given in the police poster itself was in every way to the point, but it made a too belated appearance, and owing to its size was distasteful to those erecting hoardings or stands, with the results that they were as a rule removed or covered with paint, etc., whilst the Committee's "bills" remained in position. To give an idea of the limited extent of the distribution of this Police warning, only one copy could be found posted up in Pall Mall on the afternoons of Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday preceding the Coronation.

In view of the danger likely to arise from fire, the public are earnestly requested to be most careful in the use of matches, fuses, or other lights, while in the stands or streets and on no account to throw them on the ground unless first extinguished, on the occasion of royal processions or during the illuminations and other festivities.

"A CITY POLICE WARNING."

The Commissioner of the City Police included a line regarding fire dangers in his general notice, and as these notices were very freely displayed in the city area the warning must have been of some utility, but here the weak point was that owing to the other matter contained on the same sheet the line in question—although clearly printed at the end,—formed but an inconspicuous part of the whole and thus was not accorded the attention it merited.

In view of the Danger likely to arise from Fire, the public are earnestly requested to be most careful in the use of cigarettes, matches, fuses, or other lights while in the stands or streets, and on no account to throw them on the ground unless first extinguished.

THE LONDON FIRE BRIGADE SUGGESTIONS REGARDING ELECTRICAL ILLUMINATIONS.

The London County Council Fire Brigade issued some very timely suggestions regarding the electrical precautions in connection with street illuminations, and it is a matter of congratulation, firstly that these suggestions were issued well ahead of the Coronation time, i.e., in December last, so as to enable the public supply companies and contractors to arrange accordingly, and secondly it was an excellent testimonial to the brigade's ability on the preventive side that they were so well drafted that practically all the supply authorities and supply companies adopted them *in toto*.

The London County Council in its public proceedings pointed out that it had no direct jurisdiction or powers regarding electrical illumina-

tions and, as a matter of fact, the duties are not distinctly defined and thus it was an act of courtesy in the public interest that this body went to some pains to make the electrical safeguards well-known among those primarily concerned. The suggestions read as follows:

(1) All installations should be inspected, tested and approved by the local supply authority before connection is made, and any installation that has not a satisfactory insulation between poles, and between either pole or earth, should not be connected.

(2) All circuits and sub-circuits should be provided with properly proportioned fuses to each pole; and sub-circuits should be limited to a maximum of (say) two kilowatts each, and should be arranged with due regard to current density in the conductors.

(3) No bare conductors should be used, and all conductors within reach of the public should be specially protected by suitable conduits; and all metal conduits or coverings should be efficiently "earthed."

(4) All switches, fuses, terminals and connectors should be protected from effects of weather and from possibility of mechanical injury.

(5) Festoons, garlands, etc., containing lamps should be provided with means of support independent of, and insulated from the conductors and should be secured in such a manner as to minimise risk of injury from wind.

(6) All shades and decorations of combustible materials in proximity to lamps should be rendered non-flammable by a process which will withstand the action of rain for several days and no shades or decorations of celluloid or similar substance should be used.

(7) The installations should be connected, where practicable, at the main intake, or at the main distribution boards, so as to avoid the possible overloading of the house wiring.

In some instances additional conditions were formulated by the supply companies, and to quote the agreements of one of the power houses, i.e., the Westminster Electric Supply Corporation, Ltd., the following points give some idea as to time limits and fines, etc.

The work shall be carried out in accordance with the Company's rules and to the requirements of their engineer, and shall be fixed complete and ready for testing seven days before the supply is required.

A charge of 10s. 6d. will be made for each test it is necessary to make in excess of one.

The penalty for taking more currents than applied for is £1 per ampère payable on demand.

Should the consumer fail to comply with the conditions the company is at liberty to refuse to supply and may disconnect without notice.

SUGGESTIONS FROM BOROUGH SURVEYORS.

Most of the Borough Surveyors when issuing instructions regarding the erection of stands included some notice on fire points which were attached to the licences or stamped on the plans.

Two specimens from Southwark are given below. They are useful except for the most unfortunate recommendation of the useless "Hand Grenades," which are unreliable and a source of danger.

Form A (Southwark).

Before the stand can be considered to comply with the conditions of this Licence, all the sawdust, shavings, chips, etc. must be removed.

Provision must also be made to deal with cases of fire by having in convenient positions, hose pipes connected to a proper supply, or by hand grenades [*sic*], or a plentiful supply of buckets filled with water and placed in positions convenient for use.

Smoking is not to be permitted on the stand unless special arrangements are made. Cautionary notices must be freely exhibited warning

persons on no account to drop matches which are not properly extinguished.

Form B (Southwark).

It is necessary that provision should be made *in case of fire*—where hose pipes are not provided *Hand Grenades* [*sic*] or a plentiful supply of *Buckets filled with water* must be placed in accessible places ready for use.

VARIOUS.

The London Fire Brigade advised on the fire protection arrangements at St. Paul's Cathedral stand, and stand and pavilion in the Guildhall Yard, erected in connection with the Coronation celebrations, and the suggestions were acted upon by the City Surveyor. They included the entire prohibition of smoking.

The London Fire Salvage Corps, acting in the interest of their employers, i.e., the fire insurance companies, visited many of the premises on the route of the processions with a view of pointing out defects that had direct or indirect bearing on the fire risks covered by fire insurance policies, i.e., which would affect loss of property in which the companies were financially concerned. The Corps also issued some notices to policy holders on the route which were useful for the protection of the premises and referred to the following matters:—

- (1 & 2) calling of the fire brigade and salvage corps; (3) smoking;
- (4) supervision; (5) gas stoves; (6 & 7) rubbish; (8) whitewashing timber;
- (9) buckets.

Some few of the District Surveyors who had a limited amount of control on structural points very kindly distributed some of the literature of the British Fire Prevention Committee to contractors and other parties applying to them for information. A more general distribution by these officers would not have been out of place.

The hon. secretaries of the Coronation Bonfire Celebration issued the following useful hints:—

Spectators must be warned at the time of lighting the bonfire mass, if it has been previously saturated or sprinkled with paraffin, to stand well to windward and away from the leeward side, as the flame has been known to shoot out 150 ft. at the moment of ignition.

If no wind is blowing the rocket sticks should be slanted away from the spectators, so as to prevent them descending among the crowd.

Where tar barrels are used, the tar should be ladled on to the mass before lighting, and not, as has sometimes happened, be left in the barrel on the top of the burning mass. A half barrel of blazing tar falling to the ground is a serious danger to the spectators, and in case of a steep hillside may roll downwards with harm to the hillside growth.

If the season is a very dry one no fire balloons of any kind should be used in connection with the bonfire movement.

HORACE S. FOLKER.

APPENDIX III.

THE SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS OF THE LONDON FIRE BRIGADE FOR ATTENDING FIRES ON JUNE 22ND & 23RD.

The following summary of some of the brigade "Orders," etc., should serve as a short description of the measures adopted by the London Fire Brigade in organizing its attendance at fires and protecting the fire alarm posts on the route of the processions, etc. The arrangements made were most satisfactory and effective as was especially demonstrated at the small fire on Coronation day in Pall Mall where the attendance was of the promptest possible description.

The following is a summary from the "Orders" issued by Lieut. Sladen, R.N., Chief Officer to the London Fire Brigade in connection with the duties on June 22 and June 23:

ACCESS TO FIRES.

For June 22nd: Emergency streets have been reserved by the police, and may be used for the entry and exit of fire appliances and firemen on duty during the time that general traffic is stopped: Great Smith Street, Great Scotland Yard, John Street (St James's Square), Berkeley Street, Park Lane (South end).

The only appliances to be stationed in the streets, in addition to the motor pump at Westminster Abbey will be a turn-table ladder at South Audley Street, and a motor pump at the Haymarket Street Station.

For June 23rd: The following emergency streets have been reserved by the Police, and may be used for the entry and exit of fire appliances and firemen on duty during the time that general traffic is stopped: Park Lane (South end), John Street (St James's Square), Berkeley Street, Bedford Street (Strand), Southwark Bridge Road (North end), Lambeth Palace Road, Great Scotland Yard, Chancery Lane, St Paul's Churchyard (East side), Godliman Street, Walbrook.

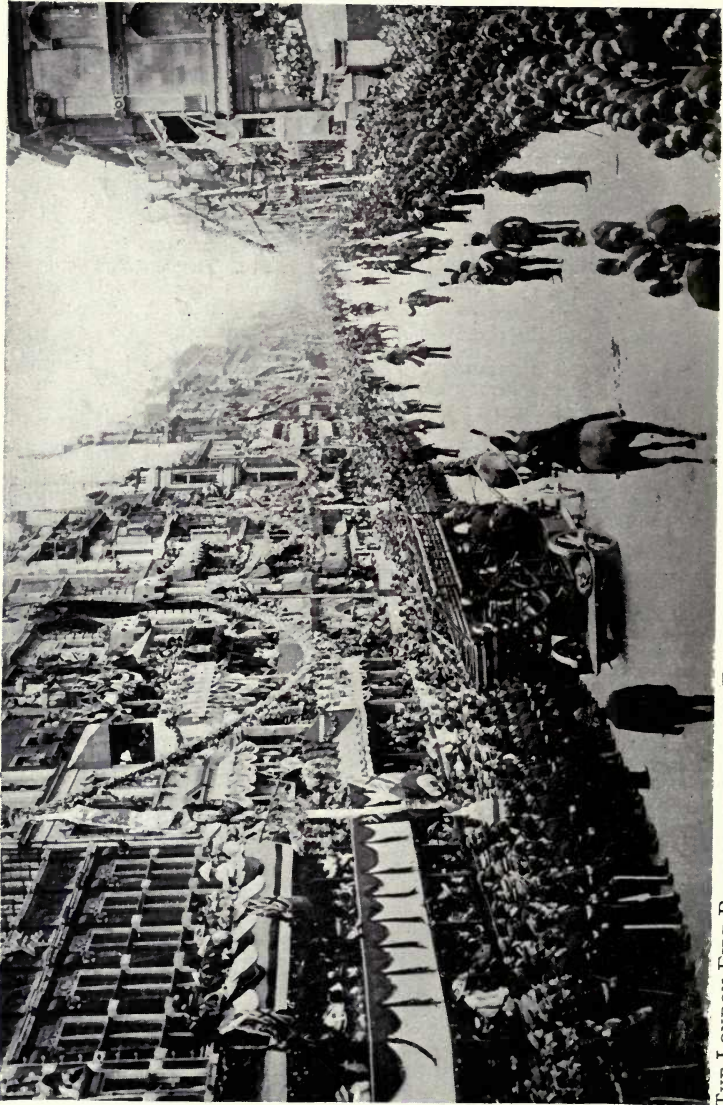
In case of necessity fire appliances, but not firemen on ordinary duty, can use Arundel Street and Waterloo Bridge to pass from the south. Fire appliances can also pass into or outside the line of route of the procession via Upper and Lower Thames Street. The only appliance to be placed in the streets will be a motor pump at Haymarket Street station, and a turn-table ladder at South Audley Street.

FIRE ALARM POINTS AND FIRST AID APPLIANCES.

For June 22nd: Men to be selected from those who know the locality, are to be stationed at the fire alarm posts on or near the route from 6.30 a.m. of the 22nd until 12.30 a.m. of the 23rd, these men to be relieved as nearly as possible every six hours. A chemical extingueur is to be strapped to the fire alarm posts concerned whilst this duty lasts; the total number of fire alarms to be guarded is fourteen.

For June 23rd: Firemen will be stationed at the fire alarm posts in or near the route from 6.30 a.m. of the 23rd till 12.30 a.m. of the 24th, and they will be relieved, as nearly as possible, every six hours. The number of posts to be guarded is thirty-five, and at each a chemical extingueur will be provided.

For Both Days: Other fire alarm posts will be guarded in the area in which vehicular traffic is suspended by the police on the two nights from 8.0 p.m. to 12.30 a.m.



THE LONDON FIRE BRIGADE ATTENDING A FIRE ON THE ROUTE OF THE CORONATION PROCESSION OF JUNE 22ND.
(View taken from W. end of Pall Mall).

GENERALLY.

For Both Days: In districts affected by the Royal Processions, the district officer is to be on duty in the watch-room unless relieved by the superintendent, from 7.0 a.m. till one hour after the Procession has passed through the district. He is on no account to absent himself, even to attend fires.

Appliances are not to be turned out on June 22nd or 23rd except for fires.

Sufficient men are to be kept at home at all stations to fully man the appliances on the days of the Royal Processions.

It is necessary for fire appliances to proceed along the routes during the time they are cleared, bells are not to be rung unless absolutely essential.

It has been arranged for turncocks to be in attendance at certain stations throughout the day.

Officers in charge of districts are to prepare special tables, to be approved by the divisional officers, and sent in to headquarters, showing the attendance at calls to fire received during the time the special restrictions on traffic, published by the police, are in operation.

Note—The London Fire Salvage Corps also placed certain of its men and appliances at suitable points from which they could attend fires in the interest of the insurance companies.

FIRES ON JUNE 22ND AND 23RD.

FIRES NOTIFIED TO THE BRIGADE.

Regarding fires notified to the London Fire Brigade during the celebrations:

On June 22nd only one fire occurred in a building on the Coronation route when crowded with sightseers awaiting the procession. This was in Pall Mall, about 1.45 p.m., and the cause could not be attributed to the stands or decorations, but apparently to some special cooking.

Only eight fires occurred in the evening that can be attributed to the celebrations and illuminations, and of these only one (at the German Embassy, about 8.45 p.m.) was in the "prescribed area" where vehicular traffic was stopped owing to the crowds. There were two false alarms through illuminants or bonfires "showing a light" and two malicious alarms.

On June 23rd there was only *one* fire near the long route of the Royal Progress during the hours prior or after the event. This occurred at Arthur Street West, City, at about 12.30 p.m., and involved appliances traversing the route of the procession before the military were dismissed and before general traffic was restored. Only two fires occurred in the evening that can be attributed to the celebrations and illuminations. These two were both in the "prescribed area" (St Paul's Churchyard, about 8.40 p.m., and Regent Street, about 9.30 p.m.).

OTHER FIRES.

On June 22nd and 23rd only a few cases of slight burns are recorded, generally due to matches setting alight the wearing apparel of women and children, but fortunately none of these involved serious physical injury. There were a few trivial fires owing to minor illuminations. These could be dealt with without calling the brigade. Scarcely any of these were in the "prescribed areas," which had been posted with "hints" and "cautions." They were mainly in the suburbs.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY.

In various parts of the Abbey there are thirty-one high pressure hydrants, and the south-east tower contains a large water tank with a capacity of 60,000 gallons, ready for the purpose of fire extinguishing.

Special telephonic communication is provided to the Westminster fire station in Francis Street.

During the work of preparation at Westminster Abbey the London Fire Brigade exercised a constant supervision, this duty devolving upon officers of its Inspecting Department.

A motor pump with crew was located outside the Abbey annexe.

During Coronation Day picked firemen were placed at fixed points throughout the Abbey, each with an electric fire alarm in readiness to communicate with a general switch-board on ground level, from which a call would be instantly given to the firemen in waiting outside the building.

HORACE S. FOLKER.

July 3rd, 1911.



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Red books.

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